



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

Ellen Marie Hess
Commissioner

Post Office Box 1358
703 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1358

For Release: March 12, 2018

Contact: Ann Lang, Senior Economist
Economic Information & Analytics Division
(804) 786-3177 or (804) 786-7496

Follow us on Twitter, <http://twitter.com/VirginiaLMI>.

Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Was Unchanged in January at 3.6 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 6,000 jobs
between December 2017 and January 2018—

RICHMOND—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate was unchanged again in January at 3.6 percent, but was down 0.4 percentage point from a year ago. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has remained steady at 3.6 percent for five consecutive months—the lowest rate since the 3.5 percent rate in April 2008 and 3.9 percentage points below the peak rate of 7.5 percent in February 2010. In January, the labor force contracted by a slight 1,328 as the number of unemployed fell by 2,291 and household employment rose by only 963. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was unchanged again in January at 4.1 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 6,000 jobs in January to 3,960,100—with the annual benchmark revision, this is the new record high. January's increase followed December's revised decline of 2,500 jobs, which was slightly larger than the initially reported loss of 2,100 jobs. In January, private sector employment increased by 6,800 jobs to 3,244,800, while public sector payrolls decreased by 800 jobs to 715,300.

From December 2017 to January 2018, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in six major industry divisions and decreased in the other five. The largest job gain during January occurred in **professional and business services**. Employment in this sector increased by 3,300 jobs to 733,300. The job gain in professional, scientific, and technical services (+6,200 jobs) outweighed the job losses in administrative and support services (-2,200 jobs) and management of companies (-700 jobs). The second largest over-the-month job gain occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, which posted an employment increase of 2,600 jobs to 400,500. **Private education and health services** experienced the third largest

(more)

over-the-month job gain, increasing by 2,100 jobs to 531,000. Private education increased by 1,800 jobs, and health care and social assistance increased by 300 jobs. Other employment gains were: 1,200 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 205,100; 1,100 jobs in **information** to 68,300; and 200 jobs in **manufacturing** to 236,600. The largest job loss during January occurred in the **trade and transportation** sector, which was down 2,700 jobs to 659,300. Job losses occurred in all sectors: wholesale trade (-1,300 jobs), transportation and warehousing (-800 jobs), and retail trade (-600 jobs). Other employment losses occurred in **total government**, down 800 jobs, to 715,300; **construction**, down 600 jobs, to 196,700; **finance**, down 300 jobs, to 205,900; and **mining**, down 100 jobs, to 8,100. For total government, employment losses occurred at all levels: state (-400 jobs); federal (-300 jobs); and local (-100 jobs).

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			December 2017 to January 2018		January 2017 to January 2018	
	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,960,100	3,954,100	3,940,200	+6,000	+0.2%	+19,900	+0.5%
Total Private Sector	3,244,800	3,238,000	3,223,500	+6,800	+0.2%	+21,300	+0.7%
Goods-Producing	441,400	441,900	432,700	-500	-0.1%	+8,700	+2.0%
Mining	8,100	8,200	7,900	-100	-1.2%	+200	+2.5%
Construction	196,700	197,300	191,600	-600	-0.3%	+5,100	+2.7%
Manufacturing	236,600	236,400	233,200	+200	+0.1%	+3,400	+1.5%
Service-Providing	3,518,700	3,512,200	3,507,500	+6,500	+0.2%	+11,200	+0.3%
Private Service-Providing	2,803,400	2,796,100	2,790,800	+7,300	+0.3%	+12,600	+0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	659,300	662,000	664,000	-2,700	-0.4%	-4,700	-0.7%
Information	68,300	67,200	68,200	+1,100	+1.6%	+100	+0.1%
Finance	205,900	206,200	203,400	-300	-0.1%	+2,500	+1.2%
Professional and Business Services	733,300	730,000	721,100	+3,300	+0.5%	+12,200	+1.7%
Education and Health Services	531,000	528,900	528,300	+2,100	+0.4%	+2,700	+0.5%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	400,500	397,900	403,700	+2,600	+0.7%	-3,200	-0.8%
Miscellaneous Services	205,100	203,900	202,100	+1,200	+0.6%	+3,000	+1.5%
Government	715,300	716,100	716,700	-800	-0.1%	-1,400	-0.2%
Federal Government	177,400	177,700	178,700	-300	-0.2%	-1,300	-0.7%
State Government	158,900	159,300	159,800	-400	-0.3%	-900	-0.6%
Local Government	379,000	379,100	378,200	-100	-0.0%	+800	+0.2%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From January 2017 to January 2018, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 19,900 jobs, or 0.5 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 46 consecutive months, and January's growth of 0.5 percent was unchanged from December. In January, the

(more)

private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 21,300 jobs, while the public sector recorded an over-the-year loss of 1,400 jobs. Nationally, total nonfarm employment was up 1.5 percent from a year ago.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, eight of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while the other three experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 12,200 jobs (+1.7 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **construction**, up 5,100 jobs (+2.7 percent). **Manufacturing** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 3,400 jobs (+1.5 percent). Other gains were in **miscellaneous services**, up 3,000 jobs (+1.5 percent); **private education and health services**, up 2,700 jobs (+0.5 percent); **finance**, up 2,500 jobs (+1.2 percent); **mining**, up 200 jobs (+2.5 percent); and **information**, up 100 jobs (+0.1 percent). Compared to a-year-ago January, the largest job loss occurred in **trade and transportation**, down 4,700 jobs (-0.7 percent). The other losses occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, down 3,200 jobs (-0.8 percent) and **total government**, down 1,400 jobs (-0.2 percent). For total government, the losses in federal (-1,300 jobs) and state (-900 jobs) government employment outweighed the gain in local government employment (+800 jobs).

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			December 2017 to January 2018		January 2017 to January 2018	
	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,960,100	3,954,100	3,940,200	+6,000	+0.2%	+19,900	+0.5%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	76,200	75,800	76,800	+400	+0.5%	-600	-0.8%
Charlottesville MSA	119,200	118,400	115,900	+800	+0.7%	+3,300	+2.8%
Harrisonburg MSA	67,700	67,500	67,200	+200	+0.3%	+500	+0.7%
Lynchburg MSA	104,000	104,200	103,800	-200	-0.2%	+200	+0.2%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,479,000	1,475,900	1,450,500	+3,100	+0.2%	+28,500	+2.0%
Richmond MSA	670,400	672,300	666,400	-1,900	-0.3%	+4,000	+0.6%
Roanoke MSA	159,400	159,000	160,900	+400	+0.3%	-1,500	-0.9%
Staunton MSA	49,900	50,100	49,900	-200	-0.4%	+0	+0.0%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	777,000	777,300	776,900	-300	-0.0%	+100	+0.0%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	64,300	64,300	62,800	+0	+0.0%	+1,500	+2.4%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is being produced for ten metropolitan areas. In January, five metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, four metropolitan areas experienced employment losses, and employment in the Winchester MSA was unchanged. The largest absolute job increase occurred in the Northern Virginia metropolitan area, with a gain of 3,100 jobs. The Charlottesville metropolitan area experienced the next largest job gain, with an increase of 800 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced gains were: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford and Roanoke

(more)

(+400 jobs each) and Harrisonburg (+200 jobs). The largest absolute job loss occurred in the Richmond metropolitan area, with a decrease of 1,900 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced job losses were Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (-300 jobs) and Lynchburg and Staunton (-200 jobs each).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in seven metropolitan areas, decreased in two metropolitan areas, and remained unchanged in the Staunton metropolitan area. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 28,500 jobs (+2.0 percent). Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 4,000 jobs (+0.6 percent), and Charlottesville was ranked third, with a gain of 3,300 jobs (+2.8 percent). The remaining metropolitan areas with over-the-year job gains were: Winchester (+1,500 jobs); Harrisonburg (+500 jobs); Lynchburg (+200 jobs); and Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+100 jobs). Over-the-year job losses occurred in the Roanoke (-1,500 jobs) and Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (-600 jobs) metropolitan areas.

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was up 0.4 percentage point in January to 3.7 percent, but was down 0.7 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 28,509, household employment increased by 57,762, and as a result, the labor force rose by 29,253. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was up 0.6 percentage point in January at 4.5 percent.

Compared to last month, the January **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 171,200 manufacturing production workers decreased by 1.2 hours to 39.8 hours, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.01 to \$19.77, and average weekly earnings decreased by \$23.31 to \$786.85. Compared to last January, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 0.8 hour, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.22, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$6.88.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of January 7-13, 2018.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the January local area unemployment rates on Friday, March 16, 2018. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaLMI.com.

The February statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, March 23, 2018.

###